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SOURCE

1. Attached herewith is a complete translation of the 24 June 1952 issue of Leventia (Young Manhood), an organ of the Communist youth organization EPON (United Panhellenic Youth Organization) that was circulated in the Athens area.
2. This edition consists of two articles, both of which appeared in the April 1952 edition of Rizospastis.¹ The articles are paraphrased, however, and in the case of the second titled "Political Work and Decentralization" specific references to the KKE (Greek Communist Party) have been avoided.

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Attachment 1

YOUNG MANHOOD

Issue No. 16

Organ of EPON, Athens

24 June 1952

We publish below a letter of Nikos Zachariadis to the young men and women of EPON (it was also published in the illegal Rizospastis and broadcast on the Free Greece radio station).

Dear Friends and Fighters,

The assassination of Belogiannis shocked our people and the entire world and especially the youth. From all over, wherever young men and young women are living and working, come letters to the party, full of indignation at the crime but also full of hope and decisiveness for the struggle which will free our people from American gangsterism. The enemy has revealed only rarely before such bloodthirsty sadism. Although the assassination of Belogiannis aroused the greatest indignation among the people and the youth, his example is arousing thousands of young men and young women to join the struggle.

Belogiannis lived as an honorable, devout fighter who gave all he had to the struggle. Full of zeal during the fight, he was consumed as a holocaust to the struggle. In a word, throughout his entire fighting career he remained a worthy Communist, an eagle, and a conscious Bolshevik, devoted to the cause of the people who, when he fell before American bullets, arose again to his full stature. Precisely because he always remained an objective Communist, for that reason the best and most worthy monument to his memory is our enlightenment from his example, our following in his footsteps and our remaining worthy Communists like him and worthy leaders of the people just as he was. The road of Belogiannis was difficult and full of obstacles, but it was the only honorable road of courage for him, when as a small boy he saw the repression and injustice and for that reason placed himself within the ranks of the KKE. He was the flesh and blood of the heroic Morias, nurtured on the traditions of 1821. He nourished within himself all the unyielding determination of Kolokotronis. From the moment that the youthful Belogiannis chose the road of honor, obligation, and struggle, he did not depart from it ever. Wholehearted devotion which did not know a moment's hesitation, wavering, or retreat, such was the life of Belogiannis. Americanocracy and monarchofascism assassinated him in their madness. But they have been fooled because they did not kill him but rather lifted him up to immortality and gave to the KKE still another banner, a torch which is burning inextinguishably beside so many of our other heroic fighters. Belogiannis faced death with a smile because he felt the people at his side, and the people constitute the strength which enlightens the worthy fighter and makes him unafraid and smilingly to crush the enemy, which makes the torturers, even when they carry out assassinations, dig their own graves. They can do anything they wish, but they are not able to smother the sentiment of the people. Its indomitable will for victory will finally overcome them.

Belogiannis has fallen, but he left the flag he was holding to fly ever higher--proud, victorious--ever higher towards the ideals of the people and mankind.

Our unforgettable heroes Vallianatos, Maltezos, Soukatzidis, Plektra, Stathopoulou, Ismini Sidiropoulou, Koula Eleftheriadou, K. Giannopoulos, Dimantis, Vamvakas, Nikiiforidis, and thousands and thousands of others, all worthy, all immortal, gave their lives on the altar of the struggle, strengthening and cultivating the work of liberation of the Fatherland. Now Belogiannis passes into immortality, one of the Pleiades, which the people raised up from its innermost being. We do not weep for him because one does not weep for the brave. We do not weep for him but we give him our oath that we will remain

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worthy as he was. Belogiannis combined other virtues which make him an example for us to imitate. He studied deeply Marxism-Leninism, and the results of that study were his works, "The Economic Development of Greece" and "The History of Neochellenic Literature."

He was put in dungeons and he was tortured for years in prisons and exile camps. He led mass mobilizations and struggles, he worked as a leading instructor. From the armed struggle he went on to the illegal work. He applied in their proper relationship the principles of illegal and legal work. He struggled on the ideological front as a journalist. He struggled against the German invader and became distinguished in the struggles of ELAS (National Popular Liberation Army). He fought also in the second armed struggle where he was seriously hurt in 1948 at Golia on Grammos Mountain.

An official with theoretical Marxist background and hardened in the struggle, he served in all sectors of the work and in the party both as an enlightener and as an organizer in people's struggles with the pen and the sword. He managed through his organizing talent to do successful work in all sectors of the struggle. He kept his ear always tuned to the pain and cries of our people; and he knew always how to teach them and also how to be taught by them.

Belogiannis' character can and must remain an outstanding example for the youth. He was always cheerful and eager, and a robust optimism and faith were characteristic of him in the final phase of the struggle. He radiated determination, calmness, conviction, and decisiveness. Respectful and moderate, he did not know how to boast. Good party conservativeness characterized him. He was foreign to any form of compliance or retreat, either to those above him or below him, and did not tolerate flattery. He spoke out steadfastly his opinion on every question just as he characterized each action of his own.

When he made a decision, he acted quickly, decisively, on his own initiative and insisted to the end on the implementation of the party line. He encouraged every simple person to develop into a useful fighter for the people.

Belogiannis struggled relentlessly for the party line and for the unity of the party. He mercilessly opposed appeasers, opportunists, and traitors, as well as open and secret enemies. He did not know appeasement or retreat in the case of such people.

Devoted to the struggle, he reached the point of self-sacrifice, which he proved in fact. He confounded and silenced the slaughterers of our people and by his example crushed all the traitors and cowards. Eternal glory awaits Belogiannis, but only ignominy and general scorn await the traitors. The example of Batsis and Argyriadis was that even the most abject betrayal will not save the life of the traitor. Other traitors have also aroused the indignation and scorn of the people. Such are the apostates and agents of Papagos such as Mihali Michael Kyrkos and the others who refused to accept the candidacy of Belogiannis in the last elections. Such are also the sweatshop operators who signed petitions for the execution of Belogiannis. One does not meet greater rotteness and callousness easily.

Sincere internationalism characterized Belogiannis. He loved with all his heart the USSR and one of his sweetest dreams was that he would go some day and see it and would learn firsthand the men and accomplishments of the land of socialism.

Belogiannis was a worthy fighter, a front-line leader in war and peace for Communism, and a Bolshevik fighter. It was precisely because of his distinguished modesty that our people and the entire world learned of him only when conditions permitted all of his personal accomplishments and his glowing personality to be brought to light. And now, under the Attic soil and our blue sky,

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his tomb has become a national shrine, and all mankind is honoring his memory. The only exception is Titoist Yugoslavia, which with its guilty silence indicated approval of the crime.

The Americans desired the disruption of the people and put the traitor Plastiras to the task of bathing his hands in blood. But the blood of Belogiannis did not divide the people as the assassins wished; but, on the other hand, it united them even more. His loss became a password and a landmark in our internal development, which appears now in a new characteristic stage of development: Today all are proceeding more decisively in the battle, defying and scorning American-ocracy, the traitors, the foreigners, and the assassins. The spirit of optimism is spreading.

The Communist rises like a symbol in the conscience of the people. The murderers understand that they made a frightful mistake. Once more they saw how, as they open the graves of the people, they are preparing their own tomb. "Of all the seeds, the blood of the heroes produces the greatest crop" said the French author Balzac. One fell and a hundred take his place with the firm decision and the indomitable will to continue and to complete his work. A modest grave received a modest brave young man, an ardent patriot, an indomitable Communist. A more noble ambition does not exist for every youth than to be worthy of Belogiannis; a magnanimous heart that embraces all the people, all the world, for whom he gives his soul. He works surely, giving everything for the cause of the people. For the enemies of the people, he does not know retreat and compromise, being implacable to the traitors. An organizer who builds dauntlessly the strong illegal mechanism, Communist and front-line leader: this explains all. Belogiannis had a mother who loved him and who attended him worthily. Let each youth replace him in her pained heart, thus she will acquire many children who will continue the work of her able son. The people make a hero into a song, they turned him into marble, some high summit will take his name. And, since our people believe in their legends, Belogiannis will be found again among them, when the final battle blazes again.

Let all our youth remember and honor Belogiannis.

Greetings,

Nikos Zachariadis

----- Political Work and Decentralization

The enemy utilizes every means in order to kill the illegal organization. And they had much to say at Belogiannis' trial about espionage, etc. The illegal organization is what Greece needs today to conduct rightly the struggle of our people. For the illegal organizations to withstand the attacks they must be built on the foundations of the revolutionary conspiratorial activity and vigilance. Main element of conspiratorial activity is decentralization. What does decentralization mean at work? 1) It means that every fighter builds his organization parallel to and independent of the other. He is not concerned about how many fighters work next to him, what their names are. He sees only that the [party] lines of the Station [radio] and Rizospastis [newspaper] are enforced. 2) It means that no one shall know the publishing mechanism or other mechanism [fronts, etc]

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except the one in which he works, but there should be many independent mechanisms. 3) It means no contact with mechanisms that were attacked. As conditions stand today, it is very difficult to determine quickly from where the attack against us came. That is why we must build a new mechanism. 4) Contact and connection with old mechanisms which were not attacked, although they are working so many years is unacceptable. Let them work, but be cut off. Anyone who attempts to unite them is making a mistake, that is, if he is not suspicious. 5) Strike inexorably against every confusion and entanglement in the work. Those who want to learn everything are dangerous even though they are not suspect. 6) Loose talk, curiosity, gossip, are the worst enemies. Mechanisms exist which are known to many, thus facilitating the work of General Security. Or else, they use persons who are known to Security. They mix old mechanisms with the new. They mix the legal with the illegal work. We must put an end to this situation. Whoever works well, avoids keeping names; he does not wait for party line and guidance. He takes from the Fighter's Seminar radio broadcast whatever he needs. He notes whether the work is done, not who does it. When he works thus he neutralizes the activity of Security. Work in the political sector today imposes decentralization of our illegal organizations.

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